

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN LABOR SHOULD BE RESPECTED

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my strong opposition to efforts now being made by the Republican Majority to weaken U.S. laws that protect the rights of American workers.

The United States has a proud labor history based on independent unions and the progress achieved in the living standards of working class American families reflects this history. America's unions have played a central role in guaranteeing that workers in our country participate in the benefits of economic growth. American labor struggled for decades to ensure that the rights of working men and women were respected by employers and public officials responsible for making and enforcing our Nation's laws.

U.S. labor laws benefit all working families, regardless of whether they may participate in a collective bargaining organization. Landmark legislation enacted in the 1930's established a minimum wage and the 40-hour week, protected our Nation's children from dangerous and exploitative working conditions, and guaranteed the rights of Americans to bargain collectively. Tragically, Americans labor laws are currently under attack by the new Republican majority in the House.

Republican Leaders in the House have proposed to revise or eliminate legal rights established as long as six decades ago. Rights taken for granted by most Americans are now in jeopardy. House Majority Leader RICHARD ARMEY has stated that he not only opposed any increase in the minimum wage but would instead advocate the repeal of this historic U.S. labor law.

One clear attempt to have Congress retreat from the labor rights protected currently by U.S. law is H.R. 743, the Team Act. This bill would amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to establish company labor organizations that would effectively compete with independent unions. H.R. 743 would overturn existing law which prohibits employers from establishing management-controlled worker groups to oversee workplace issue. The intent of this legislation is to set aside National Labor Relations Board ruling that have prevented nonunion employers from using sham company unions to discourage the organization of independent collective bargaining units.

I believe that the House must reject the Team Act and any other similar legislation that would undermine the rights of American workers to unionize. The National Labor Relations Act has succeeded in promoting fair and open negotiation between labor and management over workplace issues important to both parties. Abandoning the principles of this landmark legislation is wrong.

Another example of an attack on labor is the plan to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act that benefits all American communities by ensuring that federally funded construction projects are built by construction companies employing skilled and experienced workers. Davis-Bacon denies unscrupulous fly-by-night operators an opportunity to undercut local wages. Davis-Bacon has also saved taxpayers money by ensuring that qualified companies are used to complete Federal construction projects on-time and on-budget.

Without Davis-Bacon, more than a half million American construction workers will see their wages pushed down by fly-by-night contractors. Legitimate companies will be put under pressure to pay substandard wages. Federal income tax receipts would also be reduced by at least \$1 billion a year if Davis-Bacon were repealed.

The results of Davis-Bacon repeal can be observed at the State level. The nine States that have repealed State prevailing wage laws have seen construction wages fall and State treasuries have lost substantial income and sale tax revenues. In Utah, the size of cost overruns on State road construction tripled. The use of less skilled and less experienced construction workers has also led to an increase in the number of injuries and fatalities in the workplace.

A repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act is simply a bad idea. Any imagined benefit of a Davis-Bacon repeal is far outweighed by the costs in dollars and in the lives of American workers. I urge my colleagues in the House to just say no to the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that each Member of the House should let their constituents know where they stand on the issue of protecting the legal rights of American working men and women. I hope my colleagues will join with me in fighting to ensure that the U.S. House of Representatives respects the right of American labor.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE NEW BRITAIN MUSICAL CLUB ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I extend my congratulations to the New Britain Musical Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The members of the club, which was formed in 1920 by Theron Wolcott Hart, will celebrate this milestone at its annual banquet this evening.

The New Britain Musical Club has grown throughout the decades, with members first gathering in each others' homes and now at the First Church of Christ Congregational. At their monthly performances, members and guests of the club present vocal and instru-

mental selections representing a broad range of musical interests. The New Britain Musical Club has offered the citizens of the Hardware City an opportunity to attend performances of dance, the classics, and popular music combined with good fellowship with their neighbors.

The club members have also demonstrated their love of music through the establishment of scholarships to students with outstanding musical ability for the Julliard School of Music. For close to 50 years, the New Britain Musical Club has sponsored an Advent concert of Handel's Messiah for the community. The club is a valuable asset in New Britain, CT's rich cultural fabric where the presentation of music and art is highly prized.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SESSIONS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the untimely passing of a fine man and an outstanding public servant, chief of police Robert Sessions of Barstow, CA. Chief Sessions, a 28-year member of the department and an inspiring presence to the city of Barstow, died on May 20 after a brief battle with cancer.

Bob Sessions was born on March 23, 1940 and received a A.A. degree in education from Barstow Community College and a B.S. degree in sociology from Chapman College. He also graduated from the FBI's National Academy. In 1963, Bob married Carol Dawson and later they adopted two children, Jon and Jennifer. Together they moved to Barstow to make their home and work for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. Four years later, Bob became a reserve officer with the Barstow Police Department and was sworn in as a full time peace officer in 1968.

Over the years, Bob worked his way through the ranks of the Barstow Police Department assuming the position of patrol officer, K-9 officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. In September 1985 Bob was promoted to chief of police. During his tenure, Chief Sessions implemented numerous programs and projects including the Drug Abuse Resistance and Education [DARE] Program, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP], the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Program, and many others.

Chief Sessions' involvement in and support for numerous professional organizations is well known. He was a past president of the San Bernardino County Chiefs' Association, as well as a member of the California Chiefs of Police Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the California Peace Officer's Association, and many others. In addition, Chief Sessions played an extraordinary and active role in our civic and community life as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ

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